

The Goodwill Messenger

Published by the Village Church of Cummington

Ministry: All of us

Church Office: 634-5508

Service 10:00 AM, 1st & 3rd Sundays

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cummingtonvillagechurch.org

Village Church—Open and Affirming—You are welcome here

Village Church Calls Sarah Pirtle

At a Special Meeting on Sunday, September 27, the Village Church reached a consensus to contract with Rev. Sarah Pirtle over the next four months as our Community Minister. She'll be in a quarter-time position.

Primarily she will provide our two regular Zoom services a month. In addition she'll be offering a weekly online support meeting called "Coming to the Light," that will start soon. She'll add a Children's Time online at 9:30 AM before the adult service. She will be helping to develop the capacity for pastoral/community care. She'll be available by phone and will galvanize a team of other people of Village Church who can help meet these needs. She'll also support organizing efforts toward a social action committee. In December / January we will assess how we might move forward.

As is traditional when hiring a new minister, Pat and Scott Keith rang the church bells!

Our next Zoom service with Sarah takes place next Sunday, October 4 at 10 AM. Sarah will be providing a music-based children's time at 9:30 AM. Details and links will follow later this week.

In community,
Joshua Wachtel, Moderator

Quaker Meeting

The next Hilltown Quaker Meeting (a worship group in the manner of Friends) will be Sunday 11 October 2020 at 10 AM, weather permitting, OUTSIDE TO THE WEST OF THE SANCTUARY at the Village Church at 32 Main Street in Cummington.

Please wear a mask and bring your own chair and keep at least 6 feet apart. Children are welcome, but parents will have to keep an eye on them as there will be no child care. There will also be no refreshments.

I'll send out an email about 9 AM that Sunday morning whether or not the meeting is on. We had 7 people at our outdoor meeting in September, so please join us.

This meeting is unprogrammed, which means we worship in silence unless the Spirit moves one strongly to speak. Or one can come and simply meditate in silence.

Stay well, and take care and give care.

Yours in Peace,

Tim Walter, 413-634-8098.

Hello From Sarah

I'm thrilled to start off as your Community Minister. I sat amidst orange leaves and happy children playing on Sunday September 27 at the outdoor service, and was struck by the intergenerational vitality of the church and the beautiful words that people brought to the sharing that was facilitated by Barbara Bricker.

Thank you for extraordinary music to Laura Albers, her husband Ariel, and their sons Aviv & Eitan Backenroth. What a boost of joy to hear the intricate melodies, the achingly gorgeous sound of the strings and to hear Aviv and Eitan contribute their own playing. We could feel their commitment to musicality and their commitment to offering their music specifically in such a way that moves and touches our hearts. They brought us the sound of hope.

What they offered to us calls to mind that the ways that we offer our hearts in this time really matters. Your gift may be of listening and thereby someone is uplifted by being deeply heard. Or your gift to this shared web of life might be preparing food or praying for the earth or demonstrating your commitment to Black Lives Matter or working to get out the vote. Your own heart is making a difference. Let's reach our hearts and be thinking of each other.

With love for this community,
Rev. Sarah Pirtle

Outdoor Service, October 25

Sarah Stockwell-Arthen joins us to observe the Celtic holiday of Samhain, the day of ancestors, honoring the dead and the deepening of the year. We'll tell stories of our dearest loved ones who have passed.

Gathering Guidelines

Open to anyone that wishes to attend

We will keep a list of attendees but preregistration is not required.

Guests bring own seating

Building (bathrooms) closed

Masks please

Fragrance free

Maintain six feet distance apart. Families may sit together.

Questions (chestnutcabin@gmail.com [413 303 0414])

For personal, church needs or questions please contact one of the Deacons, John Maruskin at 634-5320, Kathleen Knox at 634-8041, Josh Wachtel at 634-5005 or leave a message at the church 634-5508.

Broadband Update:

This is important: If you have underground service and you are NOT scheduled for installation, please call to be placed on the schedule (customer service, 413-485-1251).

Network infrastructure will be complete by Oct 2,

In home installations continue (107 connected, 72 scheduled).

Underground installations progress as well (103 completed with 23 more scheduled).

Both the Cummington Connect Updates newsletter and daily happenings may be accessed through the following links:

Town of Cummington website <http://www.cummington-ma.gov/>

MLP's facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/cumming-tonmlp> as well as:

Twitter <https://twittercom/CummingtonMlp>

We realize that high speed internet is crucial, now more than ever, with remote learning and work from home at unprecedented levels. Connections are progressing within each FSA prioritized by sign-up date.

MLP Board: Allan Douglas, Brenda Arbib, Maureen Tumenas, Michael Perkins and Scott Keith

COMING TO THE WELL

Zoom gatherings for community support leading to the election

On alternating Wednesday and Thursday nights in October there will be a chance to gather online to talk, pray, sing, and feel the power of community in these weeks leading up to the election. Drawing upon her three decades of experience leading sessions where sharing of concerns brings people into connection, Rev. Sarah Pirtle, the new Community Minister for the Village Church, will lead Coming to the Well with Tim Walter, op-ed writer and retired college teacher from Plainfield.

We are alternating Wednesdays and Thursday to accommodate a range of schedules. This is non-denominational for all people who are concerned about national and local events and want to strengthen their hope for the future.

If you think you might be interested send your name and email to cummingtonvillagechurch@gmail.com and you'll receive a longer description about these sessions. No advance commitment is necessary, and you don't have to attend all four. You will be sent a zoom link each week. You can also invite people outside of the area to attend online. The dates for the sessions are;

Wednesday, October 7,

Thursday, October 15,

Wednesday, October 21

Thursday, October 29.

They will start at 7 PM and last for 75 minutes, it is necessary to arrive on time for this program. For more information or questions please also use the church email.

To rent the church space for classes, concerts, meetings, etc., please call Scott at 413 320-6544. The church charges a very nominal fee for upkeep & heat. We love having the building used!!

Children's Time

We are launching a Children's Time this Sunday that will be just for the children from 9:30-9:50 by zoom before the adult service starts at 10 AM.

New minister Sarah Pirtle has led similar music sessions this summer online and found that a wonderful time of closeness and fun develops. In fact, the children begged her to continue each week. We'll be using meaningful songs as a way to connect to spiritual themes of love and respect for the earth and all beings. For instance, "This Little Light of Mine" introduces that we all have the light of love inside. Sarah founded the Children's Music Network and received ten awards for her recordings including Parents' Choice Gold, and a lifetime achievement award called the Magic Penny. You can listen in advance at her free song website -- Sarah Hope Sings. Children will learn motions to:

"One Kind Word" <https://sarahpirtle.com/hope-sings/one-kind-word.htm>,

and "Earth, My Body" <https://sarahpirtle.com/hope-sings/earth-my-body.htm>

Berkshire Trail Elementary School Ad-Hoc Committee News

Berkshire Trail Elementary School Ad-Hoc Committee continues to meet bimonthly. All are welcome to listen and participate in ongoing discussions regarding the future use of the Berkshire Trail building. Our meetings take place over Zoom on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 7 to 8:30 PM. The Zoom link and the call-in phone numbers are available on the Town website.

In addition to our research and evaluation of the building's future uses, we held a work bee September 25th to begin sprucing up the grounds. We began with the Memorial Garden for Josh Jordan and Maggie Dempsey. Beckie Kravetz lovingly worked at it and it is much better. Trash was picked up, weed-whacking done and work to clear the flagpole and sidewalk in front of the school began. The outside bench was removed for renovation. We plan to hold another work bee soon. If you are moved to help or have any other questions please call Pat Keith (413-563-1981) for details.

Aging Gracefully in the Hilltowns via ZOOM

A Community discussion group, sponsored by the Council on Aging, focusing on Living Fully, Aging Gracefully, and Befriending Death, open to all residents of the Hilltowns and beyond.

We talk about it all here, the good, the bad and the ugly! It's a chance to share challenges and solutions, hopes and fears about aging well and living fully. Practical or philosophical, funny or sad - often both at the same time. Come join us!

The group now meets via zoom at the usual time—the second Tuesday of each month from 1-3 PM. If you would like to join us online please send an email beforehand to Annie or Lucy.

For further information please contact: Wynne or Lucy 634 5576 wynlucy@gmail.com or Annieannieb@crocker.com

Got Art?

The Cummington Cultural Council seeks applications for the 2021 Grant Cycle! Applications can be found online at <https://mass-culture.org/Cummington> starting October 1, 2020. All proposals must be submitted by November 16, 2020. Be creative! Have fun! We look forward to seeing your ideas and bringing your projects to life to benefit our town.

Introducing the Albers Family

Laura Albers and her family were musical guests at the September 27th outdoor gathering on the church lawn.

Her family, from San Francisco, have been guests here in the Hilltowns since June. Husband Ariel Backenroth, and sons Aviv (8) and Eitan (5), are all musicians. Laura is the associate concertmaster of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. Her husband is a pianist. The boys play violin and percussion.

They miss their musical community and are reaching out to their neighbors, and getting acquainted by sharing their music. If you know of a way to include their talents you can reach them at Trilamuzik@gmail.com.

The Goodwill Messenger, deadline for the November 2020 issue is October 26. Any personal news, an event, a business to promote with a paid advertisement or anything else worth noting please send to John at mrbllooz@verizon.net or Pat at patakeith@gmail.com, mail to VCC, PO Box 76, Cummington, MA 01026 or leave it in the drop box, marked GWM located in the back entryway of the Village Church. Please be sure to include all the details, and a contact number in case we have questions.



Laura Albers and her sons Aviv and Eitan provided music for the Village Church outdoor service on September 27th.

Schedule of Ongoing Events – all at the Community House unless specified

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Family Center Play Group 9:30–11:30 AM	Finance Office (Tax Collector, Treas., Acct.) open 6–7 PM	Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Transfer Station open 7–11 AM
Veterans Agent 9–11 AM	Board of Health 1 st & 3 rd Tues. 7 PM (2nd floor)	Council on Aging Office Hours 9–noon (C.H. Annex)	Town Clerk 6–7:30 PM (2nd floor)	Family Center Play Group 9:30–11:30 AM	Bryant Library open 8:30 AM–12:30 PM
Assessor Office Hours 9:30–11:30 AM (upstairs in C.H.)		Bryant Library open 6–9 PM	Selectboard meets 7 PM		
Bryant Library open 6–9 PM		Transfer Station open 5:30–7:30 PM	Building Inspector 7–9 PM (upstairs in C. H.)		
		Planning Board 2nd, 4th weeks 7 PM	Board of Assessors meets 2 nd , 4 th Thursdays 6–8 PM		

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